

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheets include changes to Figs 1, 2, and 3. The changes are described in the Remarks section of this paper.

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

The applicant notes with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicant acknowledges and appreciates receiving an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 that was filed on 30 September 2003.

Claims 1-9 and 10-14 are pending. Claim 9 has been canceled. Claims 4-7, 13 and 14 have been withdrawn. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The office action states that Figures 1-3 should be designated with a legend such as "Prior Art." Such a legend has been added to Figs. 1-3 as shown on the attached replacement drawing sheets. However, in addition, the reference characters 12(A), 12(B), 12(C) and 12(D) have been removed from Fig. 1, since they are not associated with the prior art figures, and it would be misleading to include these reference characters in a Figure labeled as "Prior Art."

The office action states that the sectional line "A-A" should be changed to "2-2." Although 37 CFR 1.84(h)(3) recommends that the ends of the planes be labeled with the corresponding view numbers, the applicants believe that such labeling may be confusing in this case, because several views are taken from the cross sectional plane A-A. However, to advance the prosecution, the cross sectional plane has been labeled as 2-2 and the specification has been amended accordingly.

Claims 1-3 and 8-12 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 1 was said to be unclear as to whether the combination of a door seal structure and a door opening portion or just a door seal structure was being claimed. Claims 1-3 have been amended to recite that the opening weather strip is adapted to be attached to the door opening portion, to indicate that the door opening portion is not part of the invention.

The phrase "raised or lowered" has been changed to "raised and lowered" in response to the examiner's suggestion.

The term "the other end edge" of claim 1 was said to be indefinite and thus has been changed to "an inner end edge." Any dependent claims that used this term have been amended accordingly.

The recitation "an inner side wall of said glass run" in claim 9 was said to be indefinite in that an inner side wall of the glass run was said to have been introduced earlier in the claims. This part was not introduced previously in the claims. However, in claim 2, "an inner side wall of said glass run holding part" was recited. This part is different from the inner side wall of the glass run. In view of these amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the section 112 rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Villa et al. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The office action states that the inside wall of the protrusion of Villa et al. has a depression and that "the other end edge" of the cover member of Villa et al. seated in the

depression. However, there is no depression in the protrusion of Villa et al. as claimed in claims 1 and 2. An inner end edge of an extension of the glass run (gasket 17) merely contacts a flat wall. Therefore, claims 1 and 2 cannot be anticipated by Villa et al.

In Villa et al., the inner end edge does not extend as far as the tubular portion of the opening weather strip when the door is closed. Therefore, the apparatus of Villa et al. does not have the problem that is solved by the present invention. That is, there is no possibility that the inner edge of the extension of the gasket 17 will wear on the tubular seal 19.

Claims 8, 9, and 11 depend on one of claims 1 and 2 and therefore cannot be anticipated by Villa et al. for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 3, 10, and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Villa et al. and Petrelli. Claim 10 has been canceled and thus will not be discussed. As for claims 3 and 12, the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 3, like claims 1 and 2, recites a depression in the protrusion. As mentioned above, Villa et al. fails to disclose such a depression. Therefore, even if Villa et al. is combined with Petrelli, the terms of claim 3 are not satisfied by the combination.

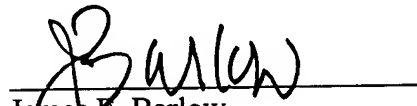
Furthermore, Petrelli fails to show what is missing in Villa et al. That is, Petrelli fails to show the claimed depression. Therefore, the rejection of claims 3 and 12 should be withdrawn.

Claims 15-17 are new. Claims 15-17 are readable on the elected species of group III. Claims 15-17 are each dependent on one of claims 1-3 and are therefore considered to be patentably distinguished from Villa et al. and Petrelli for the reasons given above.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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